GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:329
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Pending Railway Projects
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of railway projects announced many decades ago stand allocated a mere Rs. 1,000 a year to keep them alive;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone/ division-wise along with the year of announcement of each of these projects;

(c) whether the Railways has reviewed all these projects particularly the projects pertaining to Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the identified projects are likely to be taken up and the expected time of completion thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 329 BY SHRI VENKATESH BABU T.G. TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.08.2017 REGARDING PENDING RAILWAY PROJECTS

(a) to (e): There is only one railway project of New Line between Kichha-Khatima (57.7 km) falling in the State of Uttarakhand in the jurisdiction of North Eastern Railway which is more than a decade old and for which an allocation of `1000 has been made in the Budget 2017-18.

This project was sanctioned in 2003-04 with the proviso that the land will be provided by the State Government free of cost. Later on, the State Government of Uttarakhand expressed their inability to bear full cost of land which was anticipated to be `240 Crore.

There is no Railway Project in Tamil Nadu which is more than a decade old with allocation of `1000/-.

Project monitoring and removing impediments for their expeditious completion is a continuous exercise. All sanctioned projects are reviewed periodically, both at Ministry and Zonal Railway level. To strengthen the coordination mechanism, Nodal Officers have also been nominated from Zonal Railways for each State with a defined role of identifying the projects, requiring coordination with State Government and arranging meetings of Railway Officials with the State Government.

Indian Railways has taken various steps to increase pace of execution of projects:-

(i) Making higher fund allotment for projects: The capital expenditure for Railways has been increased from `58,718 Crore in 2014-15 to around `93,795 Crore in 2015-16 to `1,11,661 Crore in 2016-17 and a plan size of `1,31,000 Crore has been kept for 2017-18.

(ii) Delegation of Powers to the field officers for tenders and estimates: The Zonal Railways have been delegated full powers with respect to works contracts. Full powers have been given to General Managers of Zonal Railways with respect to sanction of estimates. This has also resulted in cutting down time for sanction of estimate and tenders.

(iii) Institutional financing: By tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for `1.5 Lakh Crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

(iv) Coordination with State/Central Ministries: To expedite the project execution and better coordination with State/Central Ministries, regular coordination meetings are being held with Ministries/Departments/State Government Authorities. A senior Railway Officer has been nominated as a Nodal Officer to deal with each State Government.

These initiatives have resulted into a remarkable increase in commissioning of New Lines, Gauge Conversions and Doublings. A progress of 7.75 Km per day of network expansion was achieved in 2015-16 compared to an average of 4.1 Km per day being achieved in previous 10 years from 2004 to 2014. During 2016-17, 2855 Km track has been commissioned by introducing passenger services.

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